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Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5727

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FOR DENNIS KUX FROM AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, IN, US
SUBJECT: JOHN W. MCCORMACK CENTRE

I HAVE JUST SENT THE FOLLOWING CABLE TO SPEAKER MCCORMACK WITH COPIES TO CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI AND FATHER BARRET:

QUOTE: I AM HAPPPY TO REPORT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS NOW GIVEN ITS CLEARANCE TO A GRANT OF TWENTY SIX MILLION RUPEES TO FINISH CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY AND PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FOR THE JOHN W. MCCORMACK CENTRE (WE HOPE NO ONE AT HOME MINDS THE BRITISH SPELLING) AT ST. JOHN'S MEDICAL SCHOOL, BANGALORE. THE PROJECT IS NOW ASSURED OF COMPLETION.

I VISITED BANGALORE LAST TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY. WENT ALL AROUND THE MEDICAL SCHOOL -- WHICH IS MOST IMPRESSIVE -- WITH DR. FRANCIS, WHO IS DEAN OF THE COLLEGE, AND THEN VISITED THE CONSTRUCTION SITE. YOU ALMOST HAVE TO GO THERE TO GET A FEELING FOR THE SIZE AND IMPORTANCE OF THIS HOSPITAL COMPLEX, AND ALSO FOR ITS BEAUTY.HAVING DRAFTED FOR PRESIDENT KENNEDY THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR FEDERAL ARCHITECTURE I LIKE TO THINK I FOLLOW SUCH MATTERS WITH SOME CARE, AND IT CAN HONESTLY ASSERT I HAVE NOT SEEN A MORE IMPRESSIVE COMBINATION OF DESIGN, LOW COST CONSTRUCTION, AND HIGH QUALITY RESULT. THE MAIN BUILDINGS OF THE
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MCCORMACK CENTRE ARE FIVE STORIES HIGH. THE WALLS

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ARE FACED WITH NINE INCH BLOCKS OF FITTED GRANITE. ALMOST ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD THE COST OF SUCH STONE WORK WOULD BE PROHIBITIVE, BUT IN SOUTHERN INDIA IT HAPPENS TO BE THE CHEAPEST MATERIAL AROUND. THE GRANITE IS FILLED WITH MICA, SO THAT THE WALLS FAIRLY SPARKLE IN THE INDIAN SUN. ALL IN ALL A HEART WARMING AND GENUINELY WORTH WHILE PROJECT. IT IS JUST ABOUT THE ONLY THING WE ARE DOING IN INDIA THESE DAYS, BUT IT IS ENOUGH FOR ME TO HAVE SEEN IT IN MY LAST WEEKS HERE.

TUESDAY EVENING HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL PARECATTIL CAME FROM COCHIN TO HOST A DINNER FOR ME IN BANGALORE TO WHICH HE INVITED THE MEDICAL STAFF OF THE COLLEGE, AS WELL AS SOME OF THE LOCAL HIERARCHY. IN THE COURSE OF THE EVENING A FATHER JONAS TOLD OF MEETING AN IRISH PRIEST IN ROME AND BEING ASKED BY HIM JUST WHO BROUGHT CHRISTIANITY TO INDIA AND WHEN THE GOOD KERALA FATHER REPLIED THAT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE WAS THE FIRST CHRISTIAN IN INDIA, BUT THAT THE DATES OF HIS ARRIVAL IN KERALA ARE DISPUTED. WHICH, HE ADDED, TOOK THE WIND OUT OF THOSE COUNTRY CLARE SAILS.

ALL SEND THEIR REGARDS TO YOU. THEY SO MUCH HOPE YOU WILL VISIT BANGALORE SOMEDAY. PERHAPS FOR THE OPENING OF THE CENTRE WHICH SHOULD BE IN ABOUT FIFTEEN TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS. WE HAD SOME PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF THE OCCASION, I AM SENDING THEM ALONG TO YOU.

THIS WILL BE MY LAST MESSAGE TO YOU FROM NEW DELHI, BUT I DO HOPE MRS. MOYNIHAN AND I MIGHT HAVE THE HONOR OF HAVING YOU TO LUNCH SOMETIME IN CAMBRIDGE. IN THE MEANTIME, A MOST MERRY CHRISTMAS. RESPECTFULLY, DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN.MOYNIHAN

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